United Nations A/61/550

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 October 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 69 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 18 October 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I wish to draw your attention to the note on the results of the meeting of the Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund which took place in Geneva on 12 October 2006 (see annex).

In accordance with the General Assembly resolution 60/124 of 15 December 2005, the Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund was established to advise me on the use and impact of the Fund.

The note summarizes the key points raised during the discussion on both the management of the Fund and its effect on humanitarian operations on the ground. I wish to draw your particular attention to the recommendation by the Advisory Group to reach the Fund target of $500 million as soon as possible. I fully endorse this recommendation and call upon Member States to contribute to the Fund.

I should be grateful if you would bring the attached note to the attention of Member States, ahead of the general debate on the Central Emergency Response Fund in the Plenary under agenda item 69 (a) entitled "Strengthening the Coordination of the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations", on 13 November 2006.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-59428 (E) 031106

Annex

Meeting of the Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund, held in Geneva on 12 October 2006

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/124 of 15 December 2005, an Advisory Group was established to provide advice to the Secretary-General on the use and impact of the Central Emergency Response Fund. The Advisory Group had an inaugural meeting in New York on 23 May 2006, shortly following the launch of the Fund. Its second meeting took place in Geneva on 12 October 2006, where Advisory Group members reviewed the progress to date and made a number of recommendations on the use and management of the Fund as well as the contribution goal for 2007. The Advisory Group held an informal discussion with participating United Nations programmes and agencies and the International Organization for Migration (the participating agencies) in Geneva on 11 October 2006 and benefited from their assessment of the early impact and effectiveness of the Fund.

2. At the outset of the meeting of the Advisory Group in October, Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, reported on the use of the Fund to date, on the allocations by country and sector, on the steps taken or planned to ensure accountability of Fund grants and to further improve timeliness. Mr. Egeland reported that the Fund had already committed US$ 172.6 million to over 275 projects in 26 countries.

3. The Advisory Group commended the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the participating agencies on their collaboration to establish the Fund as a valuable tool in meeting demonstrable and time-critical humanitarian needs. The Fund has reinforced the humanitarian reform process, facilitated better coordination and prioritization of humanitarian activities under the leadership of resident/humanitarian coordinators, provided equitable response to neglected emergencies, promoted partnership and participation among United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian actors.

4. The Advisory Group recognized that the Fund had begun operation immediately after its launch in order to address the urgent humanitarian needs for which the Fund was created, while at the same time establishing procedures and initiating improvements in the administration of the Fund. The Advisory Group encouraged further improvements through the consideration of an umbrella letter of understanding, delegation of authority and development of additional standardized templates. The Advisory Group invited the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the participating agencies to cooperate closely to achieve these improvements, to elaborate a performance framework for the Fund and to explore alternative arrangements to reduce the volume of individual projects to be processed.

5. The Advisory Group emphasized the importance of a field-driven approach in identifying and prioritizing life-saving activities for funding by the Fund and underscored the need for a flexible approach to the use of the Fund without compromising accountability. In order to enable members to discharge their advisory function, the Advisory Group decided to undertake field visits to

implementation sites and requested the Fund secretariat to make arrangements in consultation with participating agencies and resident/humanitarian coordinators.

6. The Advisory Group confirmed the importance of international and national non-governmental organizations as strategic partners that should be invited to play a more active role in programming and strategizing humanitarian response. The Advisory Group recommended that the Emergency Relief Coordinator together with participating agencies explore ways to foster greater engagement of non-governmental organizations, for example, through the cluster approach or along the model of the rapid response mechanism in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

7. The Advisory Group also reviewed the use of the Fund and its relationship with other funding mechanisms at global and country levels, such as the Peacebuilding Fund, country-specific pooled funds and emergency funds of participating agencies. The Advisory Group underscored the importance of achieving complementarity and synergy among these mechanisms to ensure better overall coverage and the timely, equitable and efficient use of resources. It also urged that the reimbursement of Fund grants made to subsequently well-funded appeals should be considered. After reviewing the use of the loan element of the Fund in 2006, the Advisory Group concluded that participating agencies should continue to use the loan facility to complement the grant element. The Advisory Group encouraged the Emergency Relief Coordinator to explore further the feasibility of using the loan facility of the Fund to support valuable activities that were beyond the authority of the grant element of the Fund, such as disaster preparedness and prevention.

8. The Advisory Group commended efforts to establish a performance and accountability framework for the Fund and noted steps made to ensure a balance between accountability and the principles of good humanitarian donorship. Recalling that the General Assembly had requested that the Secretary-General commission an independent review of the Fund at the end of its second year of operation, the Advisory Group welcomed the establishment of an accountability framework for the Fund and the plan to undertake an independent review in early 2007. The Advisory Group urged that the review draw upon the ongoing work of the participating agencies on results-based management, with a view to contributing to a common performance assessment framework.

9. The Advisory Group emphasized the importance of the global ownership of the Fund supported by a broad donorship base. The Advisory Group welcomed that a broad donor base had already been established for the Fund, with 54 donors pledging US$ 273 million for 2006, welcomed the continuing expansion of that donor base, and welcomed the announcement by several major donors that they would increase their donations for 2007. The Advisory Group also noted that some traditional donors had not appeared where they would have been expected on the list of donors for 2006.

10. After reviewing the management and use of the Fund and its contribution to rapid response and underfunded crises as well as to better coordination and prioritization at the country level, the Advisory Group recommended that Member States make every effort to achieve as soon as possible the US$ 500 million target established by the General Assembly. The Advisory Group was of the view that the Fund was indeed a sound humanitarian investment. In addition, the Advisory Group recommended that Member States consider making multi-year pledges to the Fund.

Furthermore, the Advisory Group recommended the high-level participation of Member States at the Fund's conference on 7 December 2006 in New York and agreed to advocate for the early attainment of the agreed US$ 500 million target.

United Nations A/61/551

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 October 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 134
Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Revised budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2005/06	$418 777 000
Preliminary status of expenditure for 2005/06	$382 268 900
Projected unencumbered balance for 2005/06	$36 508 100
Initial budget submitted by the Secretary-General for 2006/07	$420 175 200
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2006/07	$420 175 200
Appropriation for 2006/07	$420 175 200
Revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for 2006/07	$472 889 300
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2006/07 (revised)	$472 889 300

I. Introduction

1. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/61/468).**

2. The documents used by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the financing of UNOCI are listed at the end of the present report.

06-59262 (E) 021106

3. By its resolution 1682 (2006), the Security Council authorized, until 15 December 2006, an increase in the strength of UNOCI of up to 1,500 additional personnel, including a maximum of 1,025 military personnel and 475 police personnel.

4. The proposed revised budget for UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/61/468) should be read in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General on the initial budget proposals for this period (A/60/753 and Corr.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/60/896), which reviewed in detail the Operation's results-based framework, operational costs, staffing and other administrative matters. The Committee's recommendations were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/17 B of 30 June 2006; hence, the present review is limited to the examination of the additional requirements submitted by the Secretary-General in response to the authorization by the Security Council of the increase in the strength of the Operation.

II. Revised budget for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

A. Mandate and planned results

5. **The Advisory Committee notes with appreciation the clarity and comprehensiveness of the proposed revised budget document, especially with regard to the presentation of additional and revised expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and outputs.**

6. The Advisory Committee received a detailed update by UNOCI senior officials on the current situation in Côte d'Ivoire. UNOCI continues to operate in a complex and difficult political environment, and the general law-and-order situation remains challenging.

B. Resource requirements

7. The proposed revised budget for UNOCI amounts to $472,889,300 (gross), representing an increase of $52,714,100, or 12.5 per cent, over the initial amount, resulting from the authorized increase in troop strength and police personnel as well as a proposed increase of 29 civilian personnel and related operational costs. A breakdown of financial resources by category is provided in table 1.

Table 1
Financial resources

Category	*Apportionment (2005/06)*	*Initial apportionment (2006/07)*	*Revised cost estimates (2006/07)*	*Variance*	
				Amount	
	United States dollars				*Percentage*
Military and police personnel	195 613 100	193 138 500	231 253 200	38 114 700	19.7
Civilian personnel	67 589 900	82 689 300	83 687 400	998 100	1.2
Operational costs	155 574 000	144 347 400	157 948 700	13 601 300	9.4
Total requirements	**418 777 000**	**420 175 200**	**472 889 300**	**52 714 100**	**12.5**

8. **Table 2 provides an analysis of the mission's budget implementation rate since inception.**

Table 2

	4 April to 30 June 2004	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General	$101 061 200	$384 350 400	$371 835 600
Appropriated by the General Assembly	$96 368 100	$378 472 800	$367 501 000
Revised proposal submitted by the Secretary-General	N/A	N/A	$423 130 600
Revised appropriation by the General Assembly	N/A	N/A	$420 175 200
Expenditure	$83 063 200	$336 890 500	$382 268 900[a]
Unencumbered balance	$13 304 900	$41 582 300	$36 508 100
Budget implementation rate	86 per cent	89 per cent	91 per cent

[a] See annex I (projected expenditure report provided by the Secretariat).

9. The Advisory Committee notes that the average budget implementation rate for UNOCI since its inception has been 88 per cent, with an average unencumbered balance of $30,465,100. **The Advisory Committee recommends that budgetary assumptions continue to be refined, with closer scrutiny of expenditure patterns by UNOCI and by Headquarters.**

1. Military and police personnel

Table 3

Category	*Approved 2006/07*	*Revised 2006/07*	*Variance*
Military contingents	6 890	7 915	1 025
United Nations police	350	450	100
Formed police units	375	750	375

10. The Advisory Committee was informed that the deployment of additional military and police personnel, as authorized in Security Council resolution 1682 (2006), was under way. The provision requested is based on the phased deployment of additional personnel with a 5 per cent delayed deployment factor for military and formed police personnel and a 10 per cent delayed deployment factor for United Nations police personnel.

2. Civilian personnel

Table 4
Civilian personnel

Posts[a]	*Authorized*	*Encumbered*[b]	*Budgeted vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Actual vacancy rate (percentage)*[b]	*Additional posts requested*	*Total*
International staff	462	391[c]	15	15.4[b]	7	469
National Officers[d]	573	516	10	9.9	17	590
United Nations Volunteers	277	216	10	22	5	282
Total civilian personnel	**1 319**	**1 065**			**29**	**1 348**

[a] Excludes general temporary assistance.
[b] As at 19 October 2006.
[c] Includes 25 staff on travel status.
[d] Includes National Officers and national General Service staff.

11. **From the supplementary information provided, the Advisory Committee notes an improvement in the mission's vacancy rates and trusts that this trend will continue.** Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that targeted steps are being undertaken to ensure adequate staffing. Specifically, downsizing missions in the area, namely the United Nations Operation in Burundi and the former United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, have advised their staff to apply for vacancies in UNOCI. The selection of suitable candidates, before the end of their contracts, is thus jointly coordinated. **The Committee commends these regional efforts.**

Recommendations on posts and positions

12. **Taking into account the increase in workload that the deployment of 1,500 additional military and police personnel will represent for the support component of the mission, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of the 29 new posts and positions proposed by the Secretary-**

General (7 international, 17 national staff and 5 United Nations Volunteers), as follows:

(a) *One United Nations Volunteer HIV/AIDS counsellor/trainer, HIV/AIDS Unit, component 3, humanitarian and human rights* (*A/61/468, para. 9*). The counsellor/trainer, who would be deployed in Sector East (Bouaké), would be responsible for voluntary confidential counselling/testing programme activities and technical support for HIV/AIDS-related activities for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

(b) *One United Nations Volunteer staff counsellor, Counselling Unit, Office of the Chief of Administrative Services, component 6, support* (*A/61/468, para. 10*). A strengthening of the Counselling Unit is proposed to provide assistance to staff in Sector West;

(c) *Two finance assistants* (*1 Field Service and 1 national General Service*), *Finance Section, Office of the Chief of Administrative Services, component 6, support* (*A/61/468, para. 11*). The assistants would provide capacity for payroll functions and the processing of mission subsistence allowance, special food allowance for the formed police units, leave allowances and travel-related expenses;

(d) *Two national General Service drivers, General Service Section, Office of the Chief of Administrative Services, component 6, support* (*A/61/468, para. 12*). The drivers would operate the United Nations-owned garbage and sewage trucks in remote locations not accessible to national vendors;

(e) *One national General Service property disposal assistant and one United Nations Volunteer claims/property survey assistant, General Service Section, Office of the Chief of Administrative Services, component 6, support* (*A/61/468, paras. 13-14*). The property disposal assistant would aid the assets and hazardous materials disposal unit in environmental ground inspections. The claims/property survey assistant would assist in the upcoming scheduled write-off of a significant amount of information technology and communications equipment during the financial year;

(f) *Two contingent-owned equipment assistants* (*2 Field Service*), *Office of the Chief of Integrated Support Services, component 6, support* (*A/61/468, para. 15*). The posts are proposed for the processing of verification reports on equipment brought in by the new troops and police;

(g) *One P-3 maintenance engineer and four water treatment and bottle operators* (*3 national General Service and 1 United Nations Volunteer*), *Engineering Section, component 6, support* (*A/61/468, paras. 16-17*). Building and maintenance works are currently managed by one P-3 engineer (construction unit chief), and a separation of functions is proposed to establish a building management unit led by the proposed maintenance engineer. The mission plans to build seven new camps (four in Abidjan, one in Sector East and two in Sector West). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the functions would, for the foreseeable future, remain separate, since changes in the mission's concept of operations would continue to require the establishment and maintenance of camps. Also, a total of 44 construction projects were currently ongoing. The water treatment and bottle operator posts are proposed in connection with the acquisition of a new water treatment plant in Sector East;

(h) *One Field Service telecommunication technician, one Field Service information technology assistant, one national General Service satellite technician, three information technology assistants (two national General Service and one United Nations Volunteer), Communications and Information Technology Section, component 6, support (A/61/468, paras. 18-21)*. Six new posts are proposed in connection with the expansion of the telecommunication structure to 30 locations and required routine maintenance;

(i) *One Field Service Joint Movement Control Centre desk officer and three national General Service heavy-duty drivers, Movement Control Section, component 6, support (A/61/468, paras. 22-24)*. The desk officer post is proposed to accommodate the movement requirements of one new infantry battalion and three new formed police units, as well as up to nine additional rotations during the year. Three drivers are proposed for the heavy transport fleet, which was expanded by six tractor trailers during the 2005/06 period;

(j) *Four national General Service vehicle mechanics, Transport Section, component 6, support (A/61/468, para. 25)*. The mission plans to increase its fleet by 82 vehicles, and the mechanics are proposed for maintenance and repair tasks.

3. Operational costs

Initial appointment 2006/07	*Revised cost estimates 2006/07*	*Variance*
$144 347 400	$157 948 700	$13 601 300

13. The estimated revised operational requirements for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 represent an increase of $13,601,300, or 9.4 per cent, over the initial apportionment. The Advisory Committee recognizes the requirement for some additional equipment and supplies in conjunction with the authorized increase in military and police strength.

III. Conclusion

14. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the revised financing of UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 is indicated in paragraph 45 of the proposed revised budget (A/61/468). **The Advisory Committee recognizes that UNOCI is in an expansion phase (see para. 3 above), and it therefore recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal for UNOCI pending such further action as the Security Council may take with regard to the mission.**

Documentation

- Revised budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/61/468, advance version)
- Budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/753 and Corr.1)
- Revised budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/60/364)
- Budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and expenditure report for the period from 4 April to 30 June 2004 (A/59/750)
- Budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/59/289)
- Budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 4 April 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/58/788)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the performance report for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (A/60/896)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the revised budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/60/420)
- Security Council resolutions 1682 (2006), 1652 (2006), 1609 (2005) and 1528 (2004)
- General Assembly resolutions 60/17 B, 59/16 A and B and 58/310 on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Annex I

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: projected expenditure report for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

Category	Apportionment	Expenditure	Variance	
			Amount	
	(thousands of United States dollars)			Percentage
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)=(3)÷(1)
Military and police personnel				
Military observers	9 783.30	9 892.70	(109.4)	(1.1)
Military contingents	160 183.60	150 131.10	10 052.5	6.3
United Nations police	14 544.80	14 740.10	(195.3)	(1.3)
Formed police units	11 101.40	10 920.10	181.3	1.6
Subtotal	**195 613.10**	**185 684.00**	**9 929.1**	**5.1**
Civilian personnel				
International staff	50 419.70	49 954.20	465.5	0.9
National staff	9 844.70	8 851.60	993.1	10.1
United Nations Volunteers	7 325.50	8 179.40	(853.9)	(11.7)
Subtotal	**67 589.90**	**66 985.20**	**604.7**	**0.9**
Operational costs				
General temporary assistance	192.1	196.6	(4.5)	(2.3)
Government-provided personnel	412.5	326.5	86.0	20.8
Civilian electoral observers	0	0	—	—
Consultants	179.7	149.8	29.9	16.6
Official travel	1 246.40	2 329.70	(1 083.3)	(86.9)
Facilities and infrastructure	53 774.80	50 215.50	3 559.3	6.6
Ground transportation	12 709.70	10 904.80	1 804.9	14.2
Air transportation	46 035.30	32 295.40	13 739.9	29.8
Naval transportation	24.1	0	24.1	100.0
Communications	18 148.20	14 843.60	3 304.6	18.2
Information technology	5 309.30	4 010.80	1 298.5	24.5
Medical	5 461.20	5 511.30	(50.1)	(0.9)
Special equipment	2 543.60	2 596.60	(53.0)	(2.1)
Other supplies, services and equipment	8 537.10	5 441.00	3 096.1	36.3
Quick-impact projects	1 000.00	778.1	221.9	22.2
Subtotal	**155 574.00**	**129 599.70**	**25 974.3**	**16.7**
Gross requirements	**418 777.00**	**382 268.90**	**36 508.1**	**8.7**

Category	Apportionment	Expenditure	Variance	
	(thousands of United States dollars)		Amount	Percentage
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)=(3)÷(1)
Staff assessment income	7 616.40	6 878.80	737.6	9.7
Net requirements	**411 160.60**	**375 390.10**	**35 770.5**	**8.7**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	0.0	0.0
Total requirements	**418 777.00**	**382 268.90**	**36 508.1**	**8.7**

United Nations A/61/552

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 October 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 7 and 67 (b)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 25 October 2006 from the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers of the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and resolution 59/198 of 20 December 2004, as well as relevant resolutions of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights.

I also have the honour to refer to your letter of 5 October 2006, addressed to all permanent representatives and permanent observers to the United Nations, in which you called on Member States to complete the process for the formal adoption, during the main part of the sixty-first session, of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee mandated with the task of completing the Convention.

As you are aware, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the draft convention on 25 August 2006 and the draft Convention is now undergoing scrutiny by a drafting group of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee is aiming to finalize its work in November, at a resumed meeting of its eighth session, when it will adopt the report of the drafting group. My expectation is that, in accordance with the objective set out in your letter, the Ad Hoc Committee will recommend adoption of the draft convention by the

06-59542 (E) 021106

General Assembly during the main part of its current session, in early December. The exact timing of both meetings will depend partly on the speed with which it is possible to process and issue, in the official languages, the report of the drafting group and subsequently the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee, once it has received and adopted the report of the drafting group.

The meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, and subsequently the meeting of the General Assembly to formally adopt the Convention, will require the allocation of meeting time for this purpose. I should very much appreciate the assistance of your Office in facilitating this so that this important convention can be adopted by the Assembly during the main part of its sixty-first session.

Moreover, in view of the very tight scheduling that will be required to enable the adoption of the Convention during the main part of the session, I have the honour to request that item 67 of the agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly also be considered by the plenary for the sole purpose of ensuring that the draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities can be adopted in this timely manner.

(*Signed*) Don **MacKay**
Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral
International Convention on the Protection and Promotion
of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

United Nations A/61/553

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 November 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 7 and 11

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee

Prevention of armed conflict

Identical letters dated 12 October 2006 from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Kiribati addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

I am writing to kindly request for a legal opinion to be sought and given on serious violations of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

On 12 September 2006, the matter came before the General Committee with regard to a proposal co-sponsored by the Republic of Kiribati. The proposal was listed under item 155, "Question of the representation and participation of the 23 million people of Taiwan in the United Nations" of the draft agenda (see A/BUR/61/1). Contrary to rules 40, 41 and 43 of the rules of procedure, the General Committee chose to amalgamate this proposal with another distinct proposal, listed under item 41, "A proactive role for the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in East Asia", into one item and to arbitrarily limit the number of speakers — a clear violation of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

The amalgamation constituted a political judgement, without transparency, of two entirely distinct issues. The question of the representation of Taiwan entails an analysis of a body of law and precedent which is entirely distinct from the question raised by the proposal for a proactive role for the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in East Asia. The proposals call for distinct remedies and actions by the United Nations. There is simply nothing about them that justifies their amalgamation. The Government of Kiribati insists upon their separate consideration.

In any event, the amalgamation has no precedent in the history of the United Nations. My suspicion is that it was undertaken simply because it involves the matter of Taiwan and China. That is not a good excuse to create such a demoralizing precedent.

06-59790 (E) 061106

The Member States who co-sponsored the proposals have the same rights as any other Member State to present both procedural and substantive matters to the United Nations, including this one. On the basis of this, I would like to ask for a legal opinion to confirm the views set out above and request that it be done expeditiously.

It would also be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Elliot **Ali**
Permanent Secretary
Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Immigration
Republic of Kiribati